

CLAIMS

I/We claim:

1. An automotive multimedia entertainment system for an automotive vehicle having a plurality of audio output devices, the system comprising:

an audio system adapted to communicate with the plurality of audio output devices, the audio system having a first and second output channel;

a headphone including controls, the controls adapted to configure the audio system;

a two way wireless communication link providing audio signals to the headphone and providing a set of control signals to the audio system;

a set of front speakers and a set of rear speakers, said sets of front and rear speakers being in communication with the audio system, the audio system having a switch with first and second modes, in the first mode the switch connecting the set of rear speakers and the headphone to the first output channel, in the second mode the switch deactivating the set of rear speakers and connecting the headphone to the second output channel.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the first mode of the switch the controls can configure the first output channel.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the second mode of the switch the controls can configure the second output channel.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the controls are located on the headphone.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the headphone includes a power on control and the headphone is adapted to automatically change the switch of the audio system into the second mode when the power on control is activated .

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the headphone includes a transceiver.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the transceiver is an infrared transceiver.

8. The system according to claim 6, wherein the transceiver is a radio frequency transceiver.

9. The system according to claim 1, further comprising at least one additional headphone including controls adapted to configure the audio system, each additional headphone adapted to communicate the set of control signals over the two-way communication link such that the set of control signals from the headphone are interchangeable with the set of control signals from the at least one additional headphone.

10. An automotive multimedia entertainment system for an automotive vehicle having a plurality of audio output devices, the system comprising:

- an audio system adapted to communicate with the plurality of audio output devices, the audio system having a first and second output channel;

- a headphone including controls, the controls being adapted to configure the audio system;

- a two way wireless communication link for providing audio signals to the headphone and providing a set of control signals to the audio system;

- a set of front speakers and a set of rear speakers, the sets of front and rear speakers being in communication with the audio system, the audio system having a switch with first and second modes, in the first mode the switch connecting the set of rear speakers and the headphone to the first output channel, in the second mode the switch deactivating the set of rear speakers and connecting the headphone to the second output channel, wherein the headphone includes a power on control and the headphone is adapted to automatically change the switch of the audio system into the second mode when the power on control is activated.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein the first mode of the switch controls can configure the first output channel.

12. The system according to claim 10, wherein the second mode of the switch the controls can configure the second output channel.

13. The system according to claim 10, wherein the controls adapted to configure the audio system are located on the headphone.

14. The system according to claim 10, wherein the headphone includes a transceiver.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the transceiver is an infrared transceiver.

16. The system according to claim 14, wherein the transceiver is a radio frequency transceiver.

17. The system according to claim 10, further comprising at least one additional headphone including controls adapted to configure the audio system, each additional headphone adapted to communicate the set of control signals over the two-way communication link such that the set of control signals from the headphone are interchangeable with the set of control signals from the at least one additional headphone.

18. A method for controlling an automotive multimedia entertainment system comprising the steps:

transmitting an audio signal from an audio system to a set of front speakers and a set of rear speakers;

transmitting a control signal from a headphone over a wireless communication link to the audio system;

deactivating the rear set of speakers; and
transmitting an audio signal over a wireless communication link to the
headphone.

19. The method according to claim 18 wherein the steps of deactivating of the rear set of speakers and transmitting an audio signal to the headphone occur simultaneously.

20. The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of generating the control signal in response to a control mounted to the headphone.

21. The method according to claim 18, wherein the steps of deactivating the rear set of speakers and transmitting an audio signal to the headphones occur automatically as the headphones are powered on.

22. The method according to claim 18, wherein the wireless communication link is an infrared wireless communication link.

23. The method according to claim 18, wherein the wireless communication link is a radio frequency wireless communication link.